

What is claimed is:

1. An antibody that recognizes an active hepatocyte growth factor activator (HGFA) and does not substantially recognize inactive HGFA.

5 2. The antibody according to Claim 1, which shows a dissociation constant of 1×10^{-8} M or lower for active HGFA.

3. The antibody according to Claim 1 or 2, which is a monoclonal antibody.

10 4. The antibody according to Claim 3, which recognizes active HGFA showing a molecular weight of about 34,000-98,000 determined by the SDS-PAGE method and does not substantially recognize inactive HGFA.

15 5. The antibody according to Claim 4, which recognizes active HGFA showing a molecular weight of about 34,000-38,000 determined by the SDS-PAGE method.

6. The monoclonal antibody according to Claim 4, which is produced by a hybridoma of an accession number FERM BP-7779.

20 7. A monoclonal antibody that recognizes active HGFA activated by limited proteolysis of inactive HGFA, which is a precursor of active HGFA, between arginine at a position of 407 and isoleucine at a position of 408 counted from a translation initiation amino acid of
25 inactive HGFA, and does not substantially recognize inactive HGFA.

8. A monoclonal antibody that recognizes active

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9. A hybridoma cell line that produces a monoclonal antibody according to Claim 3.

11. A hybridoma cell line that produces a monoclonal antibody according to Claim 8.

12. A method for measuring active HGFA, comprising the step of measuring the active HGFA specifically by an immunological method using one or more kinds of antibodies that recognize an active hepatocyte growth factor activator (HGFA) and does not substantially recognize inactive HGFA.

13. A method for measuring active HGFA, comprising the step of measuring the active HGFA specifically by an immunological method using one or more kinds of antibodies that recognize active HGFA activated by limited proteolysis of inactive HGFA, which is a precursor of active HGFA, between arginine at a position of 407 and isoleucine at a position of 408 counted from a translation initiation amino acid of inactive HGFA, and does not substantially recognize inactive HGFA.

14. A method for measuring active HGFA,
comprising the step of measuring the active HGFA
specifically by an immunological method using one or

more kinds of antibodies that recognize active HGFA and does not substantially recognize inactive HGFA and a complex of active HGFA and a protease inhibitor.

15. The method according to any one of Claims 12 to 14, wherein a specimen to be measured for active HGFA is a biological component collected from a subject or test animal suspected of having a disease.

16. The method according to Claim 15, wherein the disease is organ inflammation, glomerular nephritis, cancer, myocardial infarction, angina pectoris, cerebral infarction or thrombosis.

17. A method for detecting a disease, comprising the step of detecting or measuring active HGFA in a biological component collected from a subject suspected of having a disease.

18. The method according to Claim 17, wherein the disease is selected from the group consisting of organ inflammation, glomerular nephritis, cancer, myocardial infarction, angina pectoris, cerebral infarction and thrombosis.

19. The method according to Claim 17 or 18, wherein the biological component is blood or a fraction or processed product thereof.

20. The method according to Claim 19, wherein the biological component is plasma.

21. The method according to Claim 20, wherein the plasma is citrated plasma.

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22. The method according to Claim 19, wherein argatroban is added to the biological component.

23. A kit for detecting or measuring active HGFA, which comprises one or more kinds of antibodies that
5 recognize an active hepatocyte growth factor activator (HGFA) and does not substantially recognize inactive HGFA.

24. A kit for detecting or measuring active HGFA, which comprises one or more kinds of antibodies that
10 recognize an active HGFA activated by limited proteolysis of inactive HGFA, which is a precursor of active HGFA, between arginine at a position of 407 and isoleucine at a position of 408 counted from a translation initiation amino acid of inactive HGFA, and
15 does not substantially recognize inactive HGFA.

25. A kit for detecting or measuring active HGFA, which comprises one or more kinds of antibodies that recognize active HGFA and does not substantially recognize inactive HGFA and a complex of active HGFA and
20 a protease inhibitor.

26. The kit according to any one of Claims 23 to 25, which is used for diagnosis of disease selected from the group consisting of organ inflammation, glomerular nephritis, cancer, myocardial infarction, angina
25 pectoris, cerebral infarction and thrombosis.

27. The kit according to any one of Claims 23 to 25, which is used to measure active HGFA in a biological

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28. The kit according to any one of Claims 23 to 25, wherein active HFGA is detected or measured by immunostaining.

30. The blood collection tube according to Claim 29, which is used to collect serum, plasma or whole blood to be used for measurement of active HGFA.